



Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: May 29, 2019

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple Street Ground Floor Mural Room

Attendance: Co-Chairs Greenfield and Swanson, Commissioners Horowitz, Grossman, Carlton-Gysan, Minton, Carney, Bauer, Baron, and Fontanez

Guests: School Committee Member Jennifer Susse, Arlington Police Department representatives, Noah Sweder (Arlington High School Intern), Community Members: Erik Pohl, Lynette Culverhouse, Lynette Marten, Elizabeth Dray, (9)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Co-Chair Swanson.

April Minutes: Commissioner Bauer made a motion to accept the April minutes, Commissioner Horowitz seconded. Commissioner Minton abstained; all other commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

Public Public Participation at AHRC Meetings protocol: Discussed changes. Commissioner Bauer made a motion to accept the proposal as amended. Commissioner Grossman seconded the motion. Commissioner Minton abstained; all other Commissioners voted in favor.

Commissioner Announcements:

The Commission's relationship with the Arlington Police Department (APD) was discussed. This included reviewing police attendance at meetings and ideas about working with the police on training and on-going workshops, increased transparency regarding the Commission's relationship with the police, and how to promote more communication about the police actions in general with public. A motion to set aside time to continue discussion about the Commission's relationship with the APD at the next meeting was made by Commissioner Carlton-Gysan and it was seconded by Commissioner Horowitz and passed unanimously.

Responding to Hate Protocols: Commissioner Grossman and School Committee Member Susse discussed ongoing review of the protocol. The need to document the incident by photographing graffiti before covering it up and waiting for the police to investigate before removing the graffiti whenever possible was discussed. Commissioner Grossman and School

Committee member Susse will follow up with Arlington Public Schools administration and report back to the Commission.

Community events and Information:

The AHRC Retreat, Respond and Prevent Racism, Sophia Hall, and Town Hall events were reviewed.

Commissioner Fontanez created an on-line sign up for the Feast of the East booth.

Correspondence/Incidents/Complaints

The following incidents were noted:

- a. Fires at Lake Street (5/12 and 5/16)
- a. Hate Speech and racist incident (5/9 and 5/22)
- b. 5/22 Threatening Emails

Positive feedback regarding the rally in response to the Town Hall rally were shared.

Sub-Committee and Liaison Report Out

Communications Working Group reported that the website is ready to be launched. All commissioners should give feedback to the Working Group by tomorrow so that the website can be launched by the end of the week.

Other Working Groups discussed at the Retreat were reviewed. It was agreed that Working Groups will be a focus in June.

Housekeeping

Reviewed all Commissioner openings and there was a short discussion related to the possibility of Associate Commissioners.

Budget was reviewed to ensure all receipts are in to include signs from Swift, candles, poster boards, and song sheets; some of these expenditures are for events that have already occurred, others are for upcoming events such as Town Day. Commissioner Fontanez moved to allow for flexibility in adjusting original budget plan: this was seconded and passed unanimously.

- c. Following funding requests were reviewed and agreed upon:

1. Rainbow Commission (\$200)
2. DIGs (\$324 for band-aids)
3. Signs (Loves Lives Here and HNH)
4. Pins (\$100 for 300)
5. Town Hall sign (\$200)
6. New banner (\$)
7. ADL Conference (\$200)
8. Sharpies (\$100)

Citizen Open Forum:

Issues raised included:

- not enough communication with groups targeted by Lieutenant Pedrini, including how to respond
- targeted groups were not given the opportunity to “officially” state their opinions
- experience receiving threatening emails (noted in incidents)

- lack of apparent remorse expressed by Lt. Pedrini
- AHRC did not strongly label Lt. Pedrini's writings as racist
- request made that there be listening sessions with targeted groups
- request made that the AHRC make a statement about Restorative Justice failing
- AHRC does not reach out proactively, only responds to events
- request made that the AHRC increase outreach to groups such as immigrants, people with disabilities

A motion to end the meeting was made by Commissioner Swanson, seconded, and unanimously approved at 10:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Noah Sweder